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JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC-JIC Jesusita Fire 072

DATE: May 12, 2009

TIME: 1015 (10:15 A.M.)

JESUSITA FIRE RECOVERY RESOURCES

The County is in the process of contacting all property owners affected by the Jesusita Fire. It is anticipated that a preliminary listing of damaged or destroyed properties will be released today, May 12, 2009. This list will continue to be updated as further property assessments in outlying areas occur.

County Executive Officer Michael F. Brown today appointed Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, as the head of the County's recovery team that will help residents in the recovery and rebuilding process. The County's plans include assigning project case managers for area residents whose homes were lost or damaged in the Jesusita Fire. The County is also working to establish and open a recovery center similar to the one operated after the Tea Fire to provide information and assistance related to the rebuilding and recovery process.

Property Tags

County Building and Safety officials have inspected properties that sustained fire damage and tagged them with one of three tags which indicate structural safety: a red tag indicates a structure is unsafe to occupy; a yellow tag indicates that limited entry is possible and residents should enter at their own risk; a green tag indicates that the property was inspected and deemed safe to occupy. Areas unaffected by the fire will not be tagged. **If your property has a red tag, the structure is unsafe to occupy.**

First Steps to Re-Build in the Jesusita Fire Area

Contact the County Planning and Development Department:

123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara 93101-2058

805-568-2090 or 805-568-3030

www.sbcountyplanning.org

Hours 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m and 1:00p.m.-4:30p.m. M, Tues, W, F
 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m.-4:30p.m. Thursday

Case managers have been assigned to properties damaged and/or destroyed. Residents may contact the Planning Supervisor, Petra Leyva, at 805-568-2071 to determine their case

manager. Residents should be prepared to provide property address, description of damage, and any other information the property owner may have. If the property is serviced by a septic tank, the case manager will need to know where the septic tank is located. Please also include any past service records of septic tank service. The property owner will then apply for a demolition permit. All fees will be deferred until a building permit is ready to be picked up. All permits will be a priority of the Planning and Development Department.

Any builder information should be directed to:

Contractors or Fire Restoration Specialists should contact

S.B. Contractors Association

P.O. Box 23409

Santa Barbara CA 93121

805-884-1100 info@sbcontractors.org

Contact Person: Karin Perissinotto

Recommendations for Ash Clean-Up

The Jesusita Fire created a significant amount of ash throughout the Santa Barbara, Montecito and Goleta area. While exposure to ash can cause irritation, short-term exposure generally does not constitute a significant health hazard for most people.

For minor clean-up of ash:

- Ashes in piles or clusters are best cleaned-up with a broom and dust pan.
- Deposit ashes in a sealed trash can to prevent wind from scattering them.
- A fine coating of ash may best be cleaned with wet mopping or water sprayed from a hose towards garden and lawn areas. Use the minimum amount of water needed to clean the surface, as water is in short supply. Avoid washing ash into the street and storm drains.
- Do not use leaf blowers or shop vacuums. They raise a significant amount of dust which may be inhaled, and will resettle and require further clean-up.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables from home gardens before eating them.
- Rinse children's toys and play equipment.

Residents working at sites burned in the Jesusita Fire are advised to follow the precautions below for their personal protection:

- Use a well-fitting dust particulate mask when cleaning up ashes. A mask rated N95 or P100 (available at paint and hardware stores) is most effective. If you do not have a mask, a damp cloth may be used to cover your nose and mouth.
- Children and individuals with asthma or other lung conditions should not be involved in ash clean-up.
- Protective glasses or goggles will help keep ash disturbed during clean-up out of your eyes. This is especially important for people wearing contact lenses.
- Minimize ash contact with bare skin by wearing long-sleeved clothing and pants.
- Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects.
- Wear boots with thick (lug) soles. Avoid tennis/running shoes, whose soles can melt or be punctured.

These precautions are not adequate for major clean up, rubble and debris removal where large quantities of ash are disturbed which may include asbestos-containing material.

- The only way to determine if asbestos is in a burned-out area is to have a certified asbestos consultant test the material. If it's suspected that there are asbestos-containing materials in the rubble, it is best to hire a certified asbestos contractor for cleanup.

- If it's suspected that there are asbestos-containing materials in the rubble and people choose not to hire a contractor for cleanup, the N95 respirator does not provide sufficient protection for major debris and rubble removal. People are advised to wear the P100 HEPA respirator – look for the words “HEPA” with magenta/purple colored filters.
- The P-100 HEPA respirators are available at most paint stores, building material stores, hardware stores and on-line. Note: only healthy individuals should even consider using a respirator as airflow into the lungs is significantly reduced.

Utilities

If you need to reconnect any of your utilities you may call the following numbers 24 hours a day:

Gas Company	800-427-2200
Southern California Edison	800-655-4555
Goleta Water District	805-964-6761
Santa Barbara Water District	805-564-5413

Donations and Assistance

The following agencies are currently accepting new and gently used clothing, appliances, canned food and other household items. Please contact in advance.

Alpha Thrift Store	964-1123
Catholic Charities	965-7045
Unity Shoppe	965-4122

United Way

- Donations can be made to: Jesusita Fire Long Term Recovery Fund, c/o United Way of Santa Barbara County, 320 East Gutierrez St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- Online donation and mailing info at www.unitedwaysb.org or call 965-8591
- For potential volunteer opportunities related to fire response, go to www.volunteersbc.org

211 Helpline

- Call 211 or email Jasonm@fsacares.org to offer temporary housing or to request temporary housing

Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce

- If you have a room or home to rent, or if you are seeking a room or home to rent, email steve@sbchamber.org

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